



Southwest Area Incident Management Team

For Immediate Release
Navajo Mountain #1 Fire
June 15, 2006

Release #2

The Navajo Mountain #1 Fire continued to burn actively on Wednesday and throughout the night. Similar fire activity is expected today, with the added complexity of a passing dry cold front changing the wind directions mid-afternoon from southwest to northwest. Due to strong winds, all aircraft except the Skycrane helicopters were grounded. Similar wind speeds in the range of 20-25 mph and gusts of 35 mph are expected today.

Firefighters continued to work on top near the communications site where they are securing the southwest corner of the fire. "We made progress and tried to bring our line down the mountain, but after a point, the fire behavior was too much for us to work safely. We anticipated this, which is why we were already constructing contingency lines in more favorable country," said Operations Section Chief Pruett Small. When the winds change to the northwest with the passing cold front, it is expected the southern and eastern flanks of the fire will become active and make a move towards the contingency lines on the lower slopes of Navajo Mountain.

Yesterday, a wind-driven push down Cha Canyon to the northeast accounted for most of the increase in acreage. Today, firefighters will burn out from a line constructed parallel to the canyon to ensure the fire stays safely to the west of the Rainbow City community. "The fuels lined up with the winds and the canyon acted as a funnel, so we now have about a two-mile long finger of fire and we need to make sure it can't come out of there and make a run when the winds change," said Small.

For more information, call Navajo Mountain Fire Information (toll free)

1-866-525-8173 or 1-866-525-8174

E-mail: Oltroggeswimt@yahoo.com

A burn ban is in place for the Navajo Nation. This includes no open flame, no burning of trash or vegetation, and smoking in buildings or vehicles only. Propane stoves are allowed.

Fire Facts

Acreage: 2,500 **Contained:** 5% **No evacuations in place or imminent**

Total Personnel: 292, including 8 Hot Shot Crews, 3 Type II Crews, 2 Skycranes, 4 Engines

Cooperating and Assisting Agencies: BIA, USFS, NPS, BLM, ST, FWS, PRI, Navajo Mountain Chapter House, Navajo Tribe Utility, Navajo Police Department, Navajo Nation Rangers, San Juan County School District, Indian Health Services, Navajo Department Of Emergency Management.

Weather: Red Flag Warning expected from noon until 9:00 pm.

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